Government of Gujarat on 4.2.2000, requisite clearance under the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification from MOE&F is awaited.

(c) Efforts are being made to initiate the work on the project after receipt of balance clearances. The refinery is expected to be completed within 48 months thereafter.

Exploration Blocks accorded to Private Companies

123. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of New Exploration Licensing Policy;

(b) the number of Exploration blocks awarded to private sector companies for oil exploration during 1999-2000;

(c) what are those Exploration blocks and the terms and conditions laid down before those companies for exploration of oil and natural gas; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The salient features of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) are as under:—

— Level playing field to National Oil Companies *vis-a-vis* private oil companies.

— No signature, discovery or production bonus.

— No mandatory state participation.

— No carried interest by National Oil Companies (NOCs).

— Income Tax Holiday for seven years from start of commercial production.

— No custom duty on imports required for petroleum operations.

— Biddable cost recovery limit upto 100%.

— Option to amortise exploration and drilling expenditures over a period of 10 years from first commercial production.

— Biddable sharing of profit petroleum based on pre-tax investment multiple achieved by the contractor.

— Royalty for onland areas is payable at the rate of 12.5% for crude oil and 10% for natural gas. For offshore areas, it is payable at the rate of 10% for oil and natural gas. Royalty for discoveries in deep water areas beyond 400 m iso-bath will be chargeable at half the applicable rate for offshore areas for the first seven years of commercial production.

— Fiscal stability provision in the contract.

— Freedom to the contractor for marketing of oil and gas in the domestic market.

— Provision for assignment.

— Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1996, which is based on . UNCITRAL model shall be applicable.

— To facilitate investors, a Petroleum Tax Guide (PTG) is in place.

(b) to (d) In the first round of offer under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), sixteen exploration blocks have been awarded to the private sector companies/consortium of private sector companies. The company-wise details of these blocks are given in the enclosed statement.

The Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) containing detailed terms and conditions for exploration of oil and gas for these blocks have not been signed so far.

Statement

Name of Companies/Consortiums	Name of Blocks
GAIL-Gazprom	NEC-OSN-97/1
Cairn Energy India Pty. Ltd.	KG-DWN-98/2
Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL)-Niko Resources Ltd. (Niko)	KG-DWN-98/1, KG-DWN-98/3, MNDWN-98/2, GK-OSN-97/1, KG-OSN-97/2, KG-OSN-97/3, KG-OSN-97/4, KK-OSN-97/2, MB-OSN-97/2, MB-OSN-97/3, NEC-OSN-97/2 & SR-OSN-97/1
Mosabacher Energy - Energy Equity - Hindustan Oil Company Ltd. (HOEC)	CY-OSN-97/1
Geoenpro India Ltd. - Geopetrol International - Enpro India Ltd.	ARP- ONN-97/1

Population Below Poverty Line

124. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of population with detailed break-up-State-wise and urban/rural-wise, living below poverty line as on 31.3.1991 in the country;

(b) the percentage of population living below poverty line as on 31.3.1999 with State-wise and urban/rural-wise detail break up; and

(c) the estimate of the Planning Commission as regards the factors leading to increase/decrease as the case may be?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF